



U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service

Office of the Commissioner

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A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONER
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The Data Management Improvement Act Task Force was created by Congress to evaluate how data-collection and data-sharing systems can be deployed to improve the flow of traffic at U.S. airports, seaports and land border Ports-of-Entry (POEs) while enhancing security. It is a formidable challenge that has direct and far-reaching implications in terms of maintaining America's economic well-being and strengthening our national security. The Task Force's first annual Report to Congress demonstrates that it can meet this challenge with great success.

During its initial year of operation, the Task Force focused on the development of an electronic entry/exit system. The Administration has made addressing this enormously complex issue a priority, and I firmly believe that the recommendations the Task Force presents in its inaugural report support this effort.

On behalf of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, I commend the members of this broad coalition, which brings together federal, state, and local government officials with representatives of private-sector organizations, and thank them for their tireless efforts and dedication. Undaunted by the scope and complexity of their original Congressional mandate, the Task Force also had to consider subsequent legislation and initiatives in the post-September 11, 2001, environment in their deliberations. The Task Force tackled the issues head-on and persevered.

Over the next 2 years, the Task Force will address other issues affecting POEs and related border management concerns. These include improving the flow of traffic at POEs, facilities and infrastructure concerns, enhancing the interoperability of information technology systems, and expanding cooperation between the public and private sectors and among federal, state, and local agencies and affected foreign governments. The expertise and dedication members demonstrated throughout this year make me confident that the Task Force will continue to succeed in addressing our Nation's commercial facilitation needs and desire for increased security.

It is my pleasure and honor to deliver this Report to Congress.



James W. Ziglar
Commissioner